AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A cryptographic method during which an integer division of ~~the~~ a type q = a div b and/or a modular reduction of ~~the~~ a type r = a mod b is performed, where q is a quotient, a is a number containing m bits, b is a number containing n bits, with n less than or equal to m and b_{n-1} is ~~non-zero~~ non-zero, b_{n-1} being the most significant bit of the number b, comprising the steps of masking the number a by a random number ρ before performing the integer division and/or the modular reduction, and generating encrypted or decrypted data in accordance with ~~the results~~ a result of the division and/or modular reduction.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein, in order to mask the number a, b times the random number ρ (a <- a + b*ρ) is added to the number a.

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein, after having performed an integer division, the contribution made by the random number ρ is taken away from the result of the integer division.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein, in order to take away the contribution made by the random number ρ, said random number ρ is subtracted from the result of the integer division.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the random number ρ is modified at each implementation of the method.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the random number ρ is modified after a predetermined number of implementations of the method.

7. (Previously Presented) An electronic component comprising means for implementing a method according to claim 1, said means comprising a plurality of registers for storing the numbers a and b.

8. (Previously Presented) A chip card comprising a component according to claim 7.